

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 NASSAU 00914 01 OF 02 280400Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-12 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
ACDA-12 HA-05 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /098 W
-----081449 280418Z /70
R 272029Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY NASSAU
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 866
INFO SECDEF WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 NASSAU 0914

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MARR, BF, US
SUBJ: AAF GRAND BAHAMA

1. AMBASSADOR HAS RECEIVED THE FOLLOWING LETTER FROM MR. MAURICE E. ROOMRE, MP, (OPPOSITION FNM) WHO REPRESENTS THAT AREA OF GRAND BAHAMA IN WHICH AAF GRAND BAHAMA IS LOCATED:

QUOTE THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA DURING MY FORMER TENURE, 1967 TO 1972 AS REPRESENTATIVE FOR GRAND BAHAMA UNDERTOOK TO PERFORM CERTAIN WORKS ON BEHALF OF THE RESIDENTS OF EASTERN GRAND BAHAMA SOME OF WHICH WERE COMPLETED AND ONE ASPECT OF WHICH HAS YET TO BE UNDERTAKEN.

THE ROAD FROM THE GOLD ROCK CREEK MISSILE BASE UP TO NORTH RIDING POINT HAS BEEN PAVED.

ELECTRICITY FROM THE GOLD ROCK CREEK MISSILE BASE HAS BEEN PROVIDED TO ALL GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS IN FREE TOWN AND HIGH ROCK.

HEAVY EQUIPMENT FROM THE GOLD ROCK CREEK MISSILE BASE WAS LOANED TO ASSIST IN THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENTS AT FREE TOWN AND HIGH ROCK.

AN INCREASE IN THE WAGES OF BAHAMIAN PERSONNEL EMPLOYED AT THE GOLD ROCK CREEK MISSILE BASE WAS GIVEN AT THE RATE OF 4 PERCENT PER ANNUM.

THE ONLY MATTER REMAINING TO BE DONE FROM THAT INITIAL
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 NASSAU 00914 01 OF 02 280400Z

UNDERTAKING IS THE PROVISION OF A SUPPLY OF ELECTRICITY TO PRIVATE HOMES IN THE SETTLEMENT OF FREE TOWN, BEVANS TOWN AND HIGH ROCK, THE SETTLEMENTS THROUGH WHICH YOUR ELECTRICITY CABLES PASS, I.E. FROM THE GOLD ROCK CREEK MISSILE BASE WHICH IS THE POINT OF POWER GENERATION TO YOUR REMOTEST TRANSMITTER WEST OF SOUTH RIDING POINT.

THE MINISTER OF WORKS THE HONOURABLE A. LOFTUS ROKER HAS

ASSURED ME THAT IF YOU ARE PREPARED STILL TO CARRY OUT THAT FINAL ASPECT OF THE INITIAL UNDERTAKING THE GOVERNMENT OF THE BAHAMAS WOULD BE WILLING TO PROVIDE THE POLES, HIGH TENSION CABLE AND OTHER APPARATUS FOR THE DISTRIBUTION OF ELECTRICITY THROUGHOUT THE SAID SETTLEMENT.

THE SEVERAL NEW MATTERS REQUIRING YOUR ATTENTION AND COOPERATION IN THAT AREA ARE:

1. THE ESTABLISHMENT OF PENSIONS OR GRATUITIES FOR BAHAMIANS WHO RETIRE FROM EMPLOYMENT AT THE GOLD ROCK CREEK MISSILE BASE. THERE ARE AT LEAST THREE PERSONS WHO HAVE RECENTLY RETIRED AFTER FIFTEEN OR MORE YEARS OF CONTINUOUS SERVICE AT THE GOLD ROCK CREEK MISSILE BASE WITHOUT ANY PENSION OR GRATUITY. TODAY IN A DEMOCRATIC SOCIETY SUCH A COURSE IS RARE.
2. A NUMBER OF NON-AMERICANS AND NON-BAHAMIAN ARE PRESENTLY EMPLOYED AT THE GOLD ROCK CREEK MISSILE BASE IN JOBS WHICH BAHAMIANS INDIGENOUS TO THE AREA ARE QUALIFIED TO PERFORM. SEVERAL BAHAMIANS HAVE APPLIED TO THE BASE FOR EMPLOYMENT THERE AND ARE STILL AWAITING A REPLY, WHILE NON-AMERICANS AND NON-BAHAMIAN HAVE BEEN EMPLOYED. PREFERENCE TO BE GIVEN TO THE HIRING OF BAHAMIANS WHO LIVE IN THE AREA IS SOUGHT FOR THESE JOBS.
3. EQUAL PAY FOR EQUAL WORK IS ASKED FOR ON BEHALF OF THE BAHAMIANS EMPLOYED AT THE GOLD ROCK CREEK MISSILE BASE. MOST OF THE BAHAMIANS IN SUPERVISORY CAPACITIES ARE PAID LESS THAN THEIR AMERICAN COUNTERPARTS EMPLOYED IN THE SAME JOB CATEGORIES.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 NASSAU 00914 01 OF 02 280400Z

I RESPECTFULLY REQUEST YOUR EARLY ATTENTION TO THE MATTERS DETAILED ABOVE. I AM AVAILABLE TO DISCUSS THESE MATTERS FURTHER IF YOU SO DESIRE.

ON BEHALF OF THE INHABITANTS OF EASTERN GRAND BAHAMA WHOM I HAVE THE HONOUR AND PLEASURE TO REPRESENT WE THANK YOU FOR THE GIFTS OF PAVING, ELECTRICITY AND LOAN OF EQUIPMENT REFERRED TO ABOVE.

WE APPRECIATE THE KINDNESS AND GENEROSITY WHICH YOUR GOVERNMENT HAS ALWAYS EXTENDED TO US. UNQUOTE

2. CONSISTENT WITH OUR PAST RESPONSES TO THIS TYPE OF INPUT (PRIMARILY FROM MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS ROLLE CONCERNING AUTECH), AND AFTER CONSULTATION WITH EASTERN TEST RANGE OFFICIALS AT PATRICK AFB, EMBASSY PROPOSES TO ANSWER MR. MOORE AS FOLLOWS: QUOTE THANK YOU FOR YOUR LETTER OF 9 MARCH 1978 CONCERNING VARIOUS ASPECTS OF THE OPERATION OF THE US AUXILIARY AIR FIELD, GRAND BAHAMA. MY STAFF AND I HAVE CAREFULLY REVIEWED THE POINTS RAISED IN YOUR LETTER AND I AM ABLE TO PROVIDE YOU WITH THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION.

WITH REGARD TO THE US FACILITY PROVIDING ELECTRICITY TO PRIVATE HOMES IN THE AREA, I REGRET THAT THIS IS NOT FEASIBLE. THE FACILITY HAS INSUFFICIENT CAPACITY TO ACCOMPLISH

THIS OBJECTIVE, CONSIDERING THE MAGNITUDE OF THE EFFORT AND THE POSSIBLE DEGRADATION TO THE FACILITY'S MISSION. AS YOU CAN UNDERSTAND, A RELIABLE AND STEADY POWER SOURCE IS REQUIRED FOR CRITICAL INSTRUMENTATION WHEN A MISSILE LAUNCH IS IN PROGRESS. TO OVERTAX THE SYSTEM OR PERMIT TIE-INS THAT MIGHT CREATE SURGES WOULD NOT BE ALLOWABLE.

CONSIDERING THE POINT RAISED CONCERNING RETIREMENT, THE FACILITY CONTRACTOR PARTICIPATES IN THE BAHAMIAN NATIONAL INSURANCE PROGRAM. OTHERWISE NO PROVISIONS ARE MADE IN THE CONTRACT FOR A RETIREMENT PROGRAM FOR LOCAL EMPLOYEES. THIS

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 NASSAU 00914 02 OF 02 280401Z

ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-12 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11

ACDA-12 HA-05 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /098 W

-----081453 280420Z /70

R 272029Z APR 78

FM AMEMBASSY NASSAU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 867

INFO SECDEF WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 NASSAU 0914

IS CONSISTENT WITH PRACTICES FOLLOWED BY ALL CONTRACTORS AT ALL US FACILITIES HERE IN THE BAHAMAS.

AS CONCERNS THE POINT ON EMPLOYMENT OF THIRD COUNTRY NATIONALS AT AAF GRAND BAHAMA, NO THIRD COUNTRY NATIONALS HAVE BEEN HIRED BY THAT FACILITY SINCE MAY 1974. THERE ARE CURRENTLY ELEVEN THIRD COUNTRY NATIONALS EMPLOYED AT THE FACILITY WITH HIRE DATES RANGING FROM 1962 TO 1974. IN EACH CASE, CONTACT WAS MADE WITH BAHAMIAN GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS TO ATTEMPT FIRST TO FILL THE VACANCY WITH A BAHAMIAN. ONLY WHEN BAHAMIANS WERE NOT AVAILABLE WERE NON-BAHAMIANS HIRED. IT IS THE POLICY AT ALL US FACILITIES TO GIVE, CONSISTENT WITH SECURITY REQUIREMENTS, HIRING PREFERENCE TO BAHAMIANS AND TO SEEK OTHER NATIONALITIES ONLY WHEN BAHAMIAN OR US PERSONNEL ARE NOT AVAILABLE. ONCE HIRED, HOWEVER, PERSONNEL ARE NOT TERMINATED EXCEPT WITH GOOD CAUSE.

FINALLY, WITH REGARD TO EQUAL PAY FOR EQUAL WORK, I MUST POINT OUT THAT THE TWO TYPES OF EMPLOYEES ARE OBTAINED FROM DIFFERENT LABOR MARKETS. THE US EMPLOYEE IS GIVEN DIFFERENT COMPENSATION PARTIALLY AS AN INDUCEMENT TO LEAVE HIS NORMAL ENVIRONMENT AND RELOCATE TO A REMOTE LOCATION IN ANOTHER

COUNTRY, AND PARTIALLY BECAUSE HE CAN BE REQUIRED TO WORK
24 HOURS A DAY IF NECESSARY OR 365 DAYS A YEAR IF NECESSARY,
WITHOUT ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION. ADDITIONALLY, IF NEEDED AT
ANOTHER FACILITY, HE CAN BE REQUIRED TO RELOCATE. THE BAHAMIAN
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 NASSAU 00914 02 OF 02 280401Z

EMPLOYEE, ON THE OTHER HAND, IS REQUIRED TO WORK ONLY A
SPECIFIED NUMBER OF HOURS PER WEEK. HE IS PAID OVERTIME IF
HE WORKS MORE HOURS AND HE CANNOT BE REQUIRED TO LEAVE HIS
HOME AND WORK AT ANOTHER FACILITY. GIVEN THE CIRCUMSTANCES
THE TERM "EQUAL WORK FOR EQUAL PAY" REALLY DOES NOT APPLY.

OVER THE YEARS, THE US GOVERNMENT FACILITIES IN THE
BAHAMAS HAVE MADE A SINCERE AND, IN MY OPINION, SIGNIFICANT
EFFORT TO CONTRIBUTE WHERE POSSIBLE TO THE BETTERMENT OF
THE SOCIETIES AND COMMUNITIES IN WHICH THEY EXIST. IT IS MY
GOVERNMENT'S INTENTION TO CONTINUE THIS EFFORT WITH A HOPE
TOWARD ACHIEVING EVEN GREATER SUCCESS AND RAPPORT TO THE MUTUAL
ADVANTAGE OF BOTH OUR COUNTRIES.

IF I CAN BE OF ASSISTANCE IN THE FUTURE OR IF YOU DESIRE
TO DISCUSS THESE MATTERS WITH ME DIRECTLY, I AM AVAILABLE
AT YOUR CONVENIENCE. UNQUOTE
TAYLOR

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, EMPLOYMENT, DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS, ELECTRIC POWER PLANTS, FRINGE BENEFITS, MILITARY BASES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978NASSAU00914
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780181-0621
Format: TEL
From: NASSAU
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780410/aaaaahsz.tel
Line Count: 196
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 3340b2a5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 feb 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2814657
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AAF GRAND BAHAMA
TAGS: MARR, ELAB, SWEL, SOCI, BF, US, (ROOMRE, MAURCIE E)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/3340b2a5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014